(d) whether all the electors particularly of the border areas in the State have been issued identiy cards to detect infiltration from across the border; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) The Election Commission of India is monitoring the progress made by the State Governments in the implementation of the scheme of issue of voters identity cards on a monthly basis and for this purpose Chief Electoral officers are required to send monthly reports to the Commission in a prescribed format.

(c) According to the information made available by the Election Commission of India 80.35% of the total electors in the State of Gujarat have, so far, been supplied with defect-free identity cards.

(d) and (e) The scheme of the Election Commission is in respect of all the electors and there is no special emphasis on border areas. However, about 68000 cards were issued to residents in 179 villages of Kutch and Banaskantha Districts in 1987-88 in Gujarat under a separate scheme/Pilot Project introduced in certain specified border areas.

Funds to set-up new courts.

2549. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of money has been spent so far on the centrally approved scheme to set-up new courts, construct court buildings etc.,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what other steps are being taken to expand the working facilities like infrastructure for the courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) The centrally sponsored scheme for the development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary was introduced from 1993-94. It aims at supplementing the efforts of the State Governments and is confined to construction of Court buildings and residences for the Judges. One of the main features of the scheme is that the State Government must provide a matching share to the amount allocated by the Central Government. The amount relesed under this scheme since 1993-94 is as follows:

Year	Amount relased/spent
1993-94	Rs. 29.52 crores
1994-95	Rs. 49.50 crores
1995-96	Rs. 52.00 crores
1996-97	Rs. 42.73 crores (upto 14.3.1997)

(c) This scheme is being continued during the 9th Five year Plan.

आन्ध्र प्रदेश उच्च न्यायायल में लंबित पड़े मामले

2550. **डा० वाई० लक्ष्मी प्रसाद:** क्या **विधि और न्याय** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) आंध्र प्रदेश उच्च न्यायालय में लंबित मामलों की संख्या कितनी है;

(ख) आंध्र प्रदेश उच्च न्यायालय में न्यायाधीशों की खाली पड़े पदों की वर्तमान संख्या क्या है;

(ग) क्या उच्च न्यायालय में न्यायाधीशों की कमी के कारण लंबित मामलों की संख्या अधिक है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो न्यायाधीशों की नियुक्ति और लंबित मामलों के शीघ्र निपटान के लिए क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं?

विधि और न्याय मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री रमाकान्त डी० खलप): (क) आंध्र प्रदेश उच्च न्यायालय में 31.12.1996 को लंबित मामलों की संख्या एक लाख पैंतीस हजार छः सौ इक्कीस थी।

(ख) आंध्र प्रदेश उच्च न्यायालय में 1.3.1997 को 38 स्थायी/अपर न्यायाधीशों की मंजूर की गई पद संख्या में से दो पद स्थायी/अपर न्यायाधीशो के रिक्त थे।

(ग) उच्च न्यायालय में लंबित मामलों की संख्या विभिन्न जटिल कारणों से है, जिनमें न्यायाधीशों के पदों की अपर्याप्तता भी है।

(घ) समय-समय पर प्रक्रिया संबंधी विधियों को संशोधित करने के अतिरिक्त, सरकार ने विधि आयोग जैसे विशेषज्ञ निकायों की सलाह और सिफारिशों के आधार पर प्रक्रियाओं को सरल बनाने तथा मामलों को शीघ्र निपटाने के लिए अनेक उपाय किए हैं। विधि मंत्रियों, मुख्य न्यायमूर्तियों तथा न्याय प्रशासन से संबद्ध अन्य व्यक्तियों के सम्मेलन, कालिक रूप से आयोजित किए जाते हैं और ऐसे विचार विनिमय तथा परामर्शों से उद्भूत सिफारिशों और निष्कर्षों को कार्यान्वित किया जाता है और उनकी प्रगति को निकट से मानीटर किया जाता है। सरकार ऐसे सभी प्रयास कर रही है जिससे कि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि उच्च न्यायालय में पड़े रिक्त पदों को शीघ्रातिशीघ्र भरा जाए।

Foreign lawyers to represent multinationals

2551. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestion has been received by Government to allow foreign lawyers to represent multinational clients functioning in the country; and

(b) if so, what is the view of Government and what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Judicial reform

2552. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out any comprehensive plan of action for streamlining the judicial system of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and present status of the plan of action; and

(c) the manner in which the judicial reforms are likely to be started and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) a proposal for the amendment of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and the Limitation Act, 1963 towards judicial reforms is under active consideration of the Government and a Bill in this regard may be brought soon before the Parliament.

Funds to the Bar Council of States and the Bar Council of India

2553. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allotted funds to the judiciary in the plan expenditure and whether there is any proposal to allot funds to the State Bar Councils and the Bar Council of India; and

(b) if not, what steps Government would take to allot the funds to the State Bar Council and the Bar Council of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) The Government have allotted funds to the judiciary in the plan expenditure but there is no proposal to allot funds to the State Bar Councils and the Bar Council of India.

(b) Recently, on request for financial assistance from the bar Council of India for the propose of implementing various schemes for the improvement of the quality of legal education in the country, the Government had sanctioned a one-time grant of Rs. 10 lakhs to the Council.